

## MISCELLANY

### GENERAL ELECTION

The statewide general election shall be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of each even-numbered year. (Sec. 1200 California Elections Code 1999)

### DIRECT PRIMARY ELECTION

The statewide direct primary shall be held on the first Tuesday in March of each even-numbered year. In any year which is evenly divisible by the number four, the statewide primary shall be held on the first Tuesday in March and shall be consolidated with the presidential primary held in that year. (Sec. 1201 California Elections Code 1999)

### PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY

The presidential primary shall be consolidated with the statewide direct primary held in any year evenly divisible by the number four. (Sec. 1202 California Elections Code 1999)

### THE GOLDEN STATE

California – The Golden State, so nicknamed because its remarkable prosperity began with the discovery of gold in 1849, was admitted to the Union as the thirty-first state on September 9, 1850. No one knows the exact origin of the name, but it is believed to have come from a 16<sup>th</sup> century poem of romantic chivalry, bestowed by Hernando Cortes himself. The first official mention of it was a July 2, 1542, entry in the diary of Juan Cabrillo as his ship lay at anchor off the coast of Baja California.

State Motto – *Eureka*, appears on the Great Seal of the State. It is a Greek word meaning, *I have found it*, referring originally, to the discovery of gold.

State Nickname – The Golden State, is appropriate because modern California's development and remarkable prosperity began with the discovery of gold.

State Colors – Blue and gold ribbons (Yale blue and golden yellow) are used with the Great Seal. They are also the colors of the University of California.

State Song – *I Love You, California*, was first sung publicly by the great Mary Garden in 1913. Lyrics and music by Silverwood and Frankenstein of Los Angeles.

State Mineral – native Gold. This state has produced more gold than any other in the Union, and it can still be panned from her streambeds.

State Rock – Serpentine. In 1965, it was adopted by the Legislature as the official state rock.

State Animal – the Grizzly Bear appears on the State Flag and the Great Seal. A bear frequently symbolizes California in political cartoons. Now extinct in California, it was a particularly large, fierce and formidable animal.

State Reptile – the Desert Tortoise digs a deep burrow which it peaceably shares with owls and rattlers. Related to the giant Galapagos tortoise, it is vegetarian and, if not removed from its desert habitat, very long lived.

State Fish – the California Golden Trout is native to no other state. An offshore, or color phase of the cutthroat trout, it is found only in the icy streams of the high Sierra.

State Insect – the California Dog-face Butterfly is found nowhere outside this state. Sometimes called the Flying Pansy, its wings are an iridescent bluish-black, orange and sulfur-yellow in color.

State Tree – the California Redwood in both its forms, Coastal and Sierra, is among the most ancient and awesome of living

things. Except for Oregon, forests of these giant trees exist nowhere outside California.

State Flower – the Golden Poppy, can be found blooming in some part of the state throughout the year. April 6 is *California Poppy Day*.

State Bird – the California Valley Quail. Found throughout the state, it is a prized game bird noted for its hardiness and adaptability.

State Flag – the Bear Flag, was first raised in 1846 by American settlers during an uprising against rule from Mexico. Although their *California Republic* was short lived, its flag remained in use as a symbol of our love for freedom in this state.

State Fossil – the Saber-toothed Cat, was a powerful, tiger-sized carnivore with 8-inch fangs. Common in California 40 million years ago, it hunted thick-skinned animals such as mastodons.

State Marine Mammal – the California Gray Whale is 30 to 50 feet long and weighs up to 40 tons. Pods of these creatures can be seen along our coast making their annual 14,000-mile migration from the arctic to the lagoons of Baja California and back.

The Great Seal – The design for the Great Seal was adopted at the Constitutional Convention of 1849. Under thirty-one stars, Minerva, Roman goddess of arts, sciences, and wisdom in war and peace, keeps watch over a tableau depicting industry, commerce, agriculture, and the grandeur of nature. Like the political birth of our State, Minerva was born full grown from the brain of Jupiter, father of the gods and guardian of law and order. The grizzly bear at her feet, independent and formidable, symbolizes California.